

INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Krasnyi Kvadrat and Meteor Footwear Factories, Riga

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Krasnyi Kvadrat Factory

1. The Krasnyi Kvadrat (Sarkanais Kvadrats) Factory, Riga, is controlled by the Kochchubovrozina (Leather Footwear and Rubber) Trust under the Ministry for Light Industries of the Latvian SSR. The factory existed before the war and produced several kinds of rubber footwear. During the war, the factory buildings were not destroyed, but almost all the equipment was either carried away by the Germans or destroyed. At the beginning of 1945, reconstruction of the factory began; it was supplied with machinery, tools and other equipment from the USSR. Several tens of Russian specialists, engineers, technicians, and foremen arrived at the factory from various rubber factories of the USSR, such as the Krasnyi Bogatyr in Moscow and Treugolnik.\* In 1945, the factory had already started production but the output was small because of the shortage of experienced workmen, the shortage of equipment, and the poor supply of necessary materials. In 1945, the factory produced several tens of thousands of pairs of rubber shoes, mainly men's and women's galoshes. In 1946, production was more successful and in 1947 the output increased considerably.
2. a. At present, the factory is producing rubber footwear of various kinds: rubber boots (in various sizes); men's, women's, and boys' galoshes (of various types and sizes); overshoes; summer or sports footwear for men and women with cloth tops and rubber soles, of various types and sizes; rubberized cloth for raincoats; surgical gloves; and some other small articles.
- b. The production of the summer sports footwear started in the middle of 1946 and was on a mass production basis by the middle of 1947. The production of rubberized cloth started only in January 1948, in the new vinylite shop; so far this production is only on a small scale, as the rubberized material produced is not yet of a sufficiently high quality. In 1946, the factory produced about 250,000 pairs of rubber footwear and about 30,000 pairs of cloth footwear. In 1947, the factory produced about 450,000 pairs of rubber footwear and about 80,000 pairs of cloth footwear. The large increase in the output of rubber footwear was due to the starting of four conveyors in the rubber shop and to improvements in the organization of the work.

Comment: Probably the Krasnyi Treugolnik Factory in Leningrad.)

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3. a. Many discussions regarding the further output of the factory in 1948 and 1949 are taking place among the administrative and Party circles of the factory in view of the fact that the factory undertook to carry out the Five-Year Plan in four years, i.e., by 1949 instead of 1950.
- b. According to the Five-Year Plan, the Krasnyi Kvadrat Factory was to produce 3,900,000 pairs of rubber footwear and 600,000 pairs of cloth footwear in the 1946 - 1950 period.
- c. The factory production and technical conference, which lasted for two months, came to the following decisions regarding output for 1948 and 1949:

For 1948: 1,300,000 pairs of rubber footwear  
160,000 pairs of cloth footwear

For 1949: 1,900,000 pairs of rubber footwear  
330,000 pairs of cloth footwear

4. [redacted] views pessimistically the possibilities of carrying out this plan. For instance, the representatives of the Shop for the Manufacture of Textile Footwear (this shop is called at the factory simply the "textile shop"), armed with all the figures, proved, at the conference, the impossibility of such an increase in the production of cloth footwear. It was then decided to allocate to the textile shop new and much larger premises, to install first one and then a second conveyor, and to double the number of specialists in the shop. However, actually, it is almost impossible to find specialists at present, and training of new young workmen requires time. Therefore, the measures outlined are being put into effect very slowly. In the rubber shop (production of rubber footwear), in spite of the introduction of two shifts (the second shift is incomplete), four conveyors do not yield the required output of footwear because of the shortage of experienced workmen. From the beginning of 1948, the output for 24 hours should have been at least 4,000 pairs, but this rate was not attained in January or February. In February, the output reached only about 3,000 pairs on the best days. Some of the administrators of the shop were dismissed but this has not yet solved the problem.
5. The factory experiences frequent difficulties in the supply of technical gasoline ("gasoline for galoshes"/ kaloshnyi benzin/), stearine, natural and synthetic rubber, carbon, and even coal. The question of the coal supply became so acute that the administration of the factory decided to re-equip the boiler room for combustible shale fuel which could be obtained from factories in the Latvian SSR. In order to save materials in short supply, the factory laboratory frequently issues new formulas for substitutes, but there have been several instances in which the use of these substitutes greatly impaired the quality of footwear. In some cases, footwear had to be entirely rejected as unusable.
6. The factory director is G. K. Kozlenko and the chief engineer is M. M. Serebryakov.

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-3- ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~Meteor Rubber Footwear Factory

7. The Meteor Rubber Footwear Factory, Riga, is controlled by the Leather Footwear and Rubber Trust under the Ministry for Light Industries of the Latvian SSR. Before the war, it produced rubber footwear. During the war, under the Germans, the factory carried out orders for the German Army. On their departure, the Germans carried away many machines and other equipment but the factory buildings were not blown up. The restoration of the factory started at the beginning of 1945. During the period July to September 1947, the Meteor Factory was not in operation because repairs were being made in the boilers and steam distribution system and the factory shops were being expanded and re-equipped.
8. a. The factory manufactures rubber footwear of various kinds, such as rubber boots, men's and women's galoshes, overshoes, and summer cloth footwear. In February 1948, the factory started equipping a new shop for the production of leather footwear with rubber soles. It is presumed that this shop will start working in May 1948. Several specialists from the Krasnyi Treugolnik Factory at Leningrad arrived to organize the work of this new shop. The output of the Meteor Factory is almost equal to that of the Krasnyi Kvadrat Factory.
- b. [REDACTED] in 1947 the factory produced about 400,000 pairs of various rubber footwear and about 60,000 pairs of cloth footwear.
- c. The output of rubber footwear increased greatly in 1947. In January 1947, the factory produced 800-850 pairs of rubber footwear per 24 hours; in July, 1600-1700 pairs; in December, 2,000 pairs. The rubber shop of the Meteor Factory has only two conveyors but they are organized similarly to those of the Krasnyi Treugolnik Factory and are better than those of the Krasnyi Kvadrat Factory. A conveyor is also working in the textile shop of the Meteor Factory.
9. The director of the Meteor Factory is N. A. Aleksandrov and the chief engineer is N. N. Krivunchenkov.
10. The Krasnyi Kvadrat and the Meteor Factories are the only two rubber footwear factories in Latvia. The output of these two factories exceeded the plan for 1947.

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